

To: R7 Daily Digest INBOX[R7_Daily_Digest_INBOX@epa.gov]
From: Bryan, David
Sent: Fri 11/20/2015 9:24:07 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest – 11/20/15

OPA Daily Digest – 11/20/15

Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division

New additions noted with an asterisk

RA:

11/30/15 - State/EPA Process Improvement Network Event, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Jonathan Cooper, 7287

***12/2/15** – Courtesy visit with Joseph Miniace, FAA Regional Administrator. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

12/8-9/15 - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

12/14/15 - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

DRA:

***12/2/15** – Courtesy visit with Joseph Miniace, FAA Regional Administrator. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

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12/14/15 - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office.
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

12/3/15 – Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

12/3/15 – Meet with Iowa Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Bureau and observe Kaizen event, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

12/7/15 – Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant exercise, Burlington, Kan. Contact: Chuck Hooper, 7271

12/8-10/15 – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

12/10/15 - Mid-America Regional Council's Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

12/10-12/15 – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

12/11/15 – Missouri Emergency Response Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Terri Blunk, 7013

12/16/15 – E.O. 13650 Federal Inspector training, EPA Regional Office, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: George Hess, 7540

CNSL

None

ECO

12/1/2015 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

12/2/2015 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

12/14/2015 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

12/18/2015 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

1/6/2016 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

1/11/2016 – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

ENST

11/30/15-12/04/15 – Office of Research and Development NetZero Green Infrastructure/Water Reuse Research site visit, Ft. Riley, Kan. Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188.

PLMG

11/21/15- 39th Street Corridor Redevelopment public involvement meeting at Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Doyle, 7667.

11/30-12/3/15 – State/EPA Process Improvement Network Training & Meeting; Des Moines, IA. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551; Jonathan Cooper, 7287; or Katie Howard, 7861.

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

12/3/15 – FEMA Training and Exercise Planning meeting with regional agency partners, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Williams, 7625.

WWPD

12/8-10/15 – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

12/10-12/15 – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Jason Smith – 11/10/15 – Letter – Lake Forest Estates Community Association in St. Genevieve County concerns about NPDES permits. Due: 11/25/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

Rep. Ann Wagner – 11/9/15 – Letter – Questions about West Lake Landfill site. Due: 11/24/15.
Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Deb Fischer – 11/5/15 – Letter – Questions about Region 7 investigations on enforcement of lead-based paint regulations in Nebraska. Due: 11/19/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

KIOS 91.5, Omaha Public Radio – Cheril Lee – 10/19/15 – Requests interview about the newly award Environmental Justice Small Grant to Together Incorporated of Metropolitan Omaha. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

KSDK-TV Ch. 5 – Jason Aubry – 11/19/15 – Requested statement from Region 7 regarding legislation to transfer authority at West Lake Landfill from EPA to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Environmental Stories:

KMOX Radio, St. Louis - Blunt, Wagner, McCaskill and Clay Take Action on Burning Landfill -

11/19/15 - Residents living near the landfill where an underground fire threatens nearby nuclear waste, are happy a new federal agency may take over the crisis— one with a reputation for action.

<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2015/11/19/legislation-introduced-to-remove-epa-as-lead-jurisdiction-at-west-lake-landfill/>

KTVI Channel 2, St. Louis - Army Corps of Engineers could take over clean-up at West Lake

Landfill - 11/19/15 - A small victory for worried residents near the West Lake Landfill as Missouri's Congressional leaders asked for new legislation that would have the Army Corps of Engineers take control of cleaning up World War II-era nuclear waste buried there. <http://fox2now.com/2015/11/19/army-corps-of-engineers-could-take-over-clean-up-at-west-lake-landfill/>

Missouri Times - Sen. Chappelle-Nadal Issues Statement on federal legislation removing the EPA from Westlake Landfill

- 11/19/15 - Filing legislation in the House and Senate to remove the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a positive step towards putting the remediation of radioactive waste into more capable hands. However, it still falls short of an all-inclusive approach to providing a safe environment for people in the St. Louis region. <http://themissouritimes.com/24449/sen-chappelle-nadal-issues-statement-on-federal-legislation-removing-the-epa-from-westlake-landfill/>

Washington Examiner - Missouri Senators demand clean-up of West Lake; offer families 'peace of

mind' - 11/19/15 - In a stunning development on the radioactive West Lake Landfill story, today a bipartisan congressional delegation from Missouri introduced a bill to finally instigate an expedited clean-up of the orphaned nuclear waste site. <http://www.examiner.com/article/missouri-senators-demand-clean-up-of-west-lake-offer-families-peace-of-mind>

St. Louis American - Missouri congressman file bill to put Army Corps of Engineers in charge of cleaning up radioactive waste at West Lake Landfill

- 11/19/15 - For years, St. Louis residents and advocates have been phoning and pressuring their congressmen to take legislative action to clean up the West Lake Landfill, where wastes from 1940s atomic bomb production were illegally buried in the 1970s. http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/article_7722eb02-8f0c-11e5-8c75-0b441db2a93e.html

KWMU St. Louis Public Radio - Area members of Congress move to shift federal oversight of radioactive West Lake Landfill - 11/19/15 - A rare bipartisan coalition of the region's two members of the U.S. House and both of Missouri's U.S. senators has filed legislation to transfer authority for the West Lake landfill from the Environmental Protection Agency to the Army Corps of Engineers.
<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/area-members-congress-move-shift-federal-oversight-radioactive-west-lake-landfill>

KTRS Radio - Lawmakers want Corps, not EPA, to remediate landfill - 11/19/15 - Four members of Missouri's congressional delegation want the Army Corps of Engineers to take over 'clean up' of the West Lake Landfill site in St. Louis County, saying the Environmental Protection Agency is moving too slowly in addressing concerns about contamination. <http://lawmakers-want-corps-not-epa-to-remediate-landfill/>

KMOV Channel 2, St. Louis (video) - Bridgeton Landfill Fact vs. Fiction: Are nearby businesses leaving? - 11/19/15 - Bridgeton's mayor said the situation at the Bridgeton and West Lake Landfills has not chased nearby businesses away. <http://www.kmov.com/story/30553877/bridgeton-landfill-fact-vs-fiction-are-nearby-businesses-leaving>

Waste DIVE - EPA may lose control over Missouri's West Lake Landfill - 11/20/15 - Senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill, and representatives Ann Wagner and William Lacy Clay, introduced the legislation to have the Army Corps of Engineers oversee the dump. <http://www.wastedive.com/news/epa-may-lose-control-over-missouris-west-lake-landfill/409592/>

Des Moines Register - Drake speakers explore 5 soil, water ideas - 11/19/15 - About 200 people attending a Drake University conference Thursday discussed ways farmers, landowners, conservationists and environmentalists can improve soil and improve water quality.
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2015/11/19/drake-speakers-explore-5-soil-water-ideas/76042932/>

The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Farm states urged to promote more cover crop usage - 11/19/15 - Widespread adoption of cover crops would counter many of the ill effects of climate change while improving soil health, protecting soil from erosion and reducing nutrient pollution, according to a study released Thursday by the Natural Resources Defense Council.
<http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/business/agriculture/farm-states-urged-to-promote-more-cover-crop-usage-20151119>

Des Moines Register (letter) - Support Iowa's leadership in renewable energy - 10/20/15 - Those who support action to clean up our air, protect Iowa's working lands and grow our economy should support Iowa's leadership in renewable energy, the objectives of the U.N. Paris conference and the Clean Power Plan. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2015/11/20/support-iowas-leadership-renewable-energy/76003020/>

Park Hills (Mo.) Daily Journal - Legislators weigh in on proposed state park - 11/20/15 - A larger than usual crowd was in attendance Thursday for the Farmington Regional Chamber of Commerce noon luncheon where attendees heard from area elected leaders who offered their thoughts on the proposed use of a portion of ASARCO settlement funds for the purchase of more than 2,400 acres of unaffected land in Oregon County for the creation of a new state park. http://dailyjournalonline.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/legislators-weigh-in-on-proposed-state-park/article_42c63391-6f35-5b9c-bb5d-f75bb9c6c043.html

The Daily Signal (opinion)- Why Congress Must Take Back Authority to Address Burdensome Environmental Regulations - 11/20/15 - Congress has a chance to reassert itself against regulatory overreach. The Senate has passed three Congressional Review Act (CRA) disapproval resolutions that would repeal the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineer's water rule, and two EPA greenhouse gas rules targeting electric power plants. The ball is now in the House's court. <http://dailysignal.com/2015/11/20/why-congress-must-take-back-authority-to-address-burdensome-environmental-regulations/>

Reuters - El Nino indicator hits record high, adds to weather risks: NOAA - 11/20/15 - A key indicator for the strength of El Niño has reached a record high, the U.S. weather agency said, adding to signs that a weather pattern known for causing extreme droughts, storms and floods could become one of the strongest ever. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/19/us-elnino-noaa-idUSKCN0T82PM20151119>

The Hill (blog) - Decade of success under the RFS - 10/20/15 - This year, we are not only commemorating the creation of our nation's most successful energy policy in the past 40 years. We are also celebrating a decade of job creation, clean air, innovation, increased energy independence and consumer choice. But even as we are celebrating these victories, EPA is deliberating the fate of the RFS. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/260792-decade-of-success-under-the-rfs>

Ag-Professional - New handbook helps NRCS staff work with organic producers - 11/20/15 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the release of a new handbook aimed at helping Natural Resource Conservation Service field staff work with organic and transitioning-to-organic producers. <http://www.agprofessional.com/news/products/new-handbook-helps-nrcs-staff-work-organic-producers>

The Daily Signal - House Hearing Witness: On the Clean Power Plan, 'EPA's Cost Estimate Is an Underestimate' - 11/19/15 - Some witnesses questioned the president's climate initiative, the Clean Power Plan, during a House Committee on Science, Space and Technology hearing on Wednesday. <http://dailysignal.com/2015/11/19/house-hearing-witness-on-the-clean-power-plan-epas-cost-estimate-is-an-underestimate/>

Daily Caller - Experts Agree: EPA's Clean Power Plan Doesn't Justify Its Cost - 11/19/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan doesn't justify its costs according to testimony before the House Science, Space, and Technology committee Wednesday. <http://dailycaller.com/2015/11/19/experts-agree-epas-clean-power-plan-doesnt-justify-its-cost/>

Clean Technica - Misunderstood Clean Power Plan Reduces Hardship Across The Board - 11/19/15 - President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan (June 2, 2014), a far-reaching measure that limits the amount of carbon the United States electric power industry can emit to the atmosphere, has received two down votes from the United States Senate and is on its way to a similar fate in the House of Representatives. <http://cleantechnica.com/2015/11/19/misunderstood-clean-power-plan-reduces-hardship-across-board/>

Al Jazeera America - Report: Senators voting against EPA rules received more coal industry cash - 11/19/15 - Legislators opposing new Environmental Protection Agency efforts to mitigate climate change have received large sums of cash from the coal industry, according to an analysis released Thursday by Maplight, an independent research group that tracks the influence of money in politics. <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/11/19/report-senators-voting-against-epa-rules-received-more-coal-industry-cash.html>

International Business Times - Senators working against EPA rules receive 17 times more cash from coal industry: Maplight - 11/20/15 - The U.S. Senate passed two resolutions on Tuesday to stop the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, from cutting carbon emissions and to reduce pollution from coal-fired plants. A new report shows that majority of votes may come from senators who received 17 times more campaign money from coal industry interest groups. <http://www.ibtimes.com.au/senators-working-against-epa-rules-receive-17-times-more-cash-coal-industry-maplight-1485043>

Daily Kos - On Eve of Climate Talks, a Historic Week in the Shift Beyond Coal - 11/19/15 - In the tug-of-war over the future of our climate and our planet, there have been some very big developments this week. <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2015/11/19/1452179/-On-Eve-of-Climate-Talks-a-Historic-Week-in-the-Shift-Beyond-Coal>

CNBC - Senators taking on EPA got big cash from coal - 11/19/15 - Many senators who voted this week to block Obama administration coal regulations received healthy campaign donations from coal industry interest groups in recent years. <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/19/senators-taking-on-epa-got-big-cash-from-coal.html>

BNA - Industry Looks to Congress for Ozone Relief - 11/19/15 - Industry groups that advocated against more stringent national ozone standards are now looking for Congress to step in and stop, or at least slow down, implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's new 70 parts per billion ozone standards. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp

Water Online - How The Clean Water Rule Flows From The Top - 11/19/15 - Water policy is a national debate, but much of the day-to-day enforcement happens at the county level. So what will the EPA's controversial Clean Water Rule mean for local oversight? <http://www.wateronline.com/doc/how-the-clean-water-rule-flows-from-the-top-0001>

BNA - Refinery to Pay \$1.2M Fine for Emissions Violations - 11/20/15 - HollyFrontier Corp. will pay a \$1.2 million fine in a proposed settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency to resolve alleged Clean Air Act violations regarding fuel quality emissions standards and testing requirements at three of the company's refineries in Kansas, New Mexico and Utah.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=79360943&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0h5t1e9w9&split=0

DeSmogBog - Despite Low Oil Prices, Renewable Power Gaining Traction, Energy Agencies Report — But Not Yet Fast Enough for the Climate – 11/20/15 - The shift away from coal and towards renewable sources of energy is slowly beginning to gain traction, two recently-released reports from American and global energy agencies show. <http://www.desmogblog.com/2015/11/20/despite-low-oil-prices-renewable-power-gaining-traction-energy-agencies-report-not-yet-fast-enough-climate>

Corn+Soybean Digest - New farm pond recycles drainage water - 11/19/15 - Like many crop producers east of the Missouri River, Jim Sladek is a firm believer in pattern drainage. Unlike most of his counterparts, he is equally enthusiastic about irrigation.
<http://cornandsoybeandigest.com/conservation/new-farm-pond-recycles-drainage-water>